

What: Impacting the Global Marketplace
(An event honoring the achievements of Georgia
Your role: You will welcome everyone, say a few words, and
Length: 5 minutes
Audience: 65 companies from industry and government,
People: My contact for this event, David Clifton, director of
Carr of NIST; and George Gourlay of Coca-Cola

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Good morning. On behalf of Georgia Tech, it is my pleasure to welcome you both to Georgia Tech and today's event, "Impacting the Global Marketplace."

Today's event celebrates partnerships. The Center for International Standards & Quality is itself a partnership between Georgia Tech and representatives from business and state and federal government.

It is a strong partnership—five years young, but already with a strong track record of promoting the awareness and understanding of international standards, management systems, and quality.

Throughout Georgia Tech, strong partnerships such as CISQ are the norm. In fact, you could say that our Economic Development Institute is one big collaboration between the businesses of Georgia and Georgia Tech. Our 18 industriaextension offices throughout the state provide valuable business resources, technological expertise, and consulting to Georgia's businesses—to help those companies compete on the state, national, and international level.

Today, we are here to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of some of those Georgia businesses. Companies who—with the help of CISQ—have implemented

international quality management systems—therefore helping to strengthen their company—as well as strengthen Georgia’s economy.

Our keynote speaker is someone else who has done much to strengthen Georgia’s economy. Through actions such as trade missions, legislative support, the introduction of two workplace training and education programs for new and expanding companies, he has demonstrated his willingness to work for an improved economy for Georgia. What I find most impressive, however, is his long-term plan for Georgia. Governor Miller believes that business and industry locate and expand in states with exceptional public education systems. He is, in fact, a leader who has been unwavering in his support of education. While other governors may claim to be the education governor, Zell Miller is the bona fide article.

A former educator himself, he has helped to revitalize Georgia’s educational system. For example, during this past legislative session, he used his budget as a policy statement—showing his support for higher education by actually taking funds from other departments or not increasing funds for other departments—and putting those dollars toward a better educational system—and a better future—for the students of Georgia. On the university level, his support enabled the University System to receive funding for every one of its special initiatives including its graduate education initiatives, which at Georgia Tech, will provide support for nanotechnology.

I recently had the pleasure of taking Georgia Tech adjunct professor and Nobel Prize Winner Paul Crutzen to meet with Governor Miller. During our conversation, Dr. Crutzen asked

Governor Miller if it was difficult being a politician and an educator.

I'd like to share Governor Miller's answer with you. His answer was this. "Yes." (pause)

Actually he did add a little more. He said: "It's difficult because the politicians consider me an academic—and the academics consider me a politician."

At Georgia Tech, we consider you an advantage for Georgia. As Governor, you've been a tireless emissary and advocate for Georgia's international business development. For that reason and your successful support of higher education, there is no one better to speak to us today.

Could everyone please join me in welcoming Governor Zell Miller.

Thank you.